

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

The City Of Augusta

Proclamation

IN RECOGNITION of “Law Day 2005”

WHEREAS, Law Day is a celebration of our great heritage of liberty, justice, and equality under law; and

WHEREAS, one of the principles we fought for in the Revolutionary War was the right to trial by jury. The Declaration of Independence pointed out that George III had deprived Americans, “in many cases, of the benefits of trial by jury”; and

WHEREAS, a jury of one’s peers is a cornerstone of American democracy. Along with voting, it’s one of the main ways people take part in the public life of this nation; and

WHEREAS, trial by jury is guaranteed in the Fifth, Sixth, and Seventh Amendments; and

WHEREAS, jurors decide whether defendants are guilty or not guilty, liable or not liable; and

WHEREAS, the decisions that jurors make affect millions of lives everyday and have a profound impact on our economy and our society. By entrusting jurors from the community to decide legal cases—some of them involving millions of dollars or life and death issues—we reinforce our belief that everyday people can make the right decision, that we are an open, democratic government; and

WHEREAS, few activities in our civic life provide such a direct contact with our democracy as does jury service; and

NOW THEREFORE, as we celebrate Law Day 2005, we acknowledge the central role of juries in American life, and we recognize the importance of educating our fellow citizens about the rewards and benefits of jury service.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Bob Young, Mayor of the City of Augusta, Georgia, do hereby proclaim Sunday, May 1, 2005, as “LAW DAY” in Augusta, Georgia, and urge the citizens, schools, businesses, and media of our community to use this occasion to dedicate ourselves to preserve and strengthen the jury system. I recognize the members of the Augusta Bar Association in its community service and community educational programs designed to encourage our citizens to celebrate the rule of law and how it has contributed to the freedoms we share.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Augusta, Georgia, to be affixed this 1st day of May, in the year of our Lord two thousand and five, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and twenty-ninth.

Mayor